

1. A package for shipping and storing containers of product, said package comprising a rectangularly shaped box having a greater length than width and having a bottom wall, opposite end walls, and opposite side walls disposed orthogonally to the end walls and defining an elongate interior space in which containers of product are placed in nested, offset relationship to one another in a generally parallelogram-shaped arrangement.

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2. A package as claimed in claim 1; wherein:

angled interior corner panels extend diagonally across two diagonally opposite interior corners the box, defining a generally parallelogram-shaped box interior; and

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said parallelogram-shaped arrangement of the nested and offset containers therein conforms to the interior shape of the box, whereby the containers are closely constrained against movement in the box.

3. A package as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

at least one said side wall has an opening therein through which the containers are visible.

4. A package as claimed in claim 3, wherein:

both said side walls have an opening therein, defining at least portions of said side walls of reduced height; and

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said interior corner panels are cut from said side walls, defining said

openings, and then folded inwardly toward an adjacent end wall to form said angled interior corner panels.

5. A shipping and display box for containers of product, comprising:

a bottom wall, opposite end walls, and opposite side walls disposed orthogonally to the end walls to define an elongate rectangularly shaped box having four corners; and

5                 angled interior corner panels extending across two diagonally opposite  
corners of the box, defining a generally parallelogram-shaped interior space in the  
box, whereby a number of containers can be placed in the box in nested, offset  
relationship to one another in a parallelogram-shaped arrangement that conforms  
closely to the interior shape of the box, said elongate rectangular shape of the box  
10                 enabling the boxes to be cross-stacked and interlocked with one another to produce  
a stable stack of the boxes.

6.         A box as claimed in claim 5, wherein:  
the side and end walls and interior corner panels have a height that is at  
least as great as the height of containers placed in the box, whereby boxes filled  
with containers may be stacked on top of one another without imposing a load on  
5                 the containers, said interior corner panels serving to impart stacking strength to the  
box as well as defining said parallelogram-shaped interior space that conforms  
closely to the parallelogram-shaped arrangement of containers placed therein.

7.         A box as claimed in claim 6, wherein:  
at least a portion of at least one said side wall is of reduced height, defining  
an opening through said at least one side wall, whereby containers placed in the  
box are visible through the opening.

8.         A box as claimed in claim 7, wherein:  
at least portions of both side walls are of reduced height, defining openings  
through which containers placed in the box are visible, and said interior corner  
panels are cut from said side walls to form said openings, said corner panels having  
5                 one edge foldably connected to a respective side wall, and an opposite free edge,  
said corner panels being folded back from a respective side wall and attached at  
their free edge to an adjacent end wall.

9. A box as claimed in claim 8, wherein:  
said box is configured to closely conform to and hold four one-gallon containers disposed in said nested, offset relationship
10. A box as claimed in claim 5, wherein:  
said bottom wall, side walls, end walls, and interior corner panels are formed from a single unitary blank of corrugated board.
11. A box as claimed in claim 5, wherein:  
said box, including said bottom wall, side walls and end walls, is formed from a first blank of corrugated board, and said interior corner panels are each formed from a respective second blank of corrugated board.
12. A box as claimed in claim 11, wherein:  
the interior corner panels comprise three panels folded and secured together to have a triangular cross-section, and the corner panels have a height that is greater than the height of the box side and end walls.
13. A blank for forming an elongate, rectangular box having a bottom wall, opposite end walls, opposite side walls, and angled interior corner panels in two diagonally opposite corners, comprising:
  - 5 an elongate, rectangular center panel that forms said bottom wall in an erected box;
  - opposite end panels foldably connected along a first edge to opposite ends of the center panel for forming said end walls in an erected box;
  - a first side wall panel foldably connected to each of the opposite side edges of the center panel;
  - 10 a second side wall panel foldably connected to a second edge, adjacent and perpendicular to the first edge, of each of the end panels;

a third side wall panel foldably connected along a first edge thereof to a third edge, opposite the second edge, of each of the end panels; and  
15            a corner panel-forming panel foldably connected along one edge to a second edge, opposite said first edge, of each of the third side wall panels, said corner panel-forming panel having an opposite free edge.

14.        A blank as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

          said first and second side wall panels are narrow, said third side wall panels are wider than said first and second side wall panels, and said corner panel-forming panels are wider than said third side wall panels.

15.        A blank as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

          said first side wall panels are wider than said second and third side wall panels, and in an erected box extend approximately one-half the height of the box.

16.        A blank as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

          said first side wall panels are wider than said second and third side wall panels, and in an erected box extend the full height of the box.

17.        A blank as claimed in claim 16, wherein:

          the edge of each said first side wall panel opposite its folded connection with the center panel has a cut-out to define an opening extending over a substantial portion of the side wall in an erected box.

18.        A blank as claimed in claim 14, wherein:

          a glue flap is foldably connected to the free edge of said corner panel-forming panel to secure the free edge to an adjacent end wall in an erected box.

19.        A method of packaging containers in boxes to optimize utilization of pallet

space on which said boxes are stacked, and to enable the boxes to be cross-stacked and interlocked with one another to produce a stable stack, comprising the steps of:

- 5           providing a box having an elongate rectangular shape with side walls and end walls disposed orthogonally to one another; and  
              placing containers in the boxes in nested, offset relationship to one another in a substantially parallelogram-shaped arrangement.

20.       A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

             the containers are one-gallon containers, and four of the containers are placed in the box.